

## REMARKS

Before this response, claims 1-38 were pending and claims 39-48 were withdrawn. Applicants have canceled claims 39-48, have amended claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 20, 21, and 23 and have added new claims 49-58. Claims 1-38 and 49-58 are now pending in the application.

As amended, independent claims 1 and 20 recite a golf club head face comprising a front face, a back face and "a weld securing at least a portion of a periphery of the back face to the front face to separate the back face center from the front face center and to attach the front face to the back face only at the periphery of the back face". Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, either in individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest this element. Applicants highlight some of the features recited in claims 1 and 20 that are not shown in the cited references with reference to the rejections in the last Office Action. The pending claims may be allowable for reasons in addition to those discussed below.

### **Cheng 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection**

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cheng ('903). Applicants respectfully submit that the claims 1 and 20 are allowable over Cheng ('903).

The members 30, 32 in Cheng are fitted into a groove of the main body portion. The centers of the members 30, 32 in Cheng are not separated. As shown in the figures in Cheng, the rear member 32 is positioned adjacent to the front member 30. Cheng does not show or describe a weld that secures the periphery of the rear member 32 to the front member 30. Further, although Cheng states that "the front member 30 may be secured to the rear member 32 through the use of interlocking techniques, welding or brazing", Cheng does not show or discuss only securing a back face to a front face with a weld at the periphery of the back face. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that Cheng does not show or describe every element of either claim 1 or claim 20.

### **Soong 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection**

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, obvious over Soong ('746). Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable over Soong. Soong describes a hollow body 3 having a front end 9 that includes a wall 8. Soong does not show a back face secured to a front face. The face

plate in Soong is attached to the body by a bracket. Therefore, the wall 8 is part of a body that is attached to the face plate by a bracket and is not a back face. Further, Soong does not show a weld. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that Soong does not discuss or show every element of either of claim 1 or claim 20 and that these claims are not anticipated by Soong.

#### **Soong obviousness rejection**

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion or motivation in Soong to modify Soong to secure the wall 8 to the face plate with a weld. Soong therefore does not teach or suggest to provide "a weld securing at least a portion of a periphery of the back face to the front face to separate the back face center from the front face center". If the Examiner asserts that this limitation is common knowledge in the art, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide documentary evidence or take official notice of this assertion in accordance with the requirements of MPEP 2144.03.

#### **35 U.S.C. §103(a) Soong in view of Cheng**

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 20, 21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Soong in view of Cheng ('903). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 20 are allowable over this combination.

Soong and Cheng do not teach or suggest every element of either of claims 1 or 20. Neither Soong nor Cheng teach or suggest a weld that secures at least a periphery of the back face to a front face to separate the back face center from the front face center and to attach the front face to the back face only at the periphery of the back face. As the Examiner noted, Soong does not teach to secure a periphery of a back face to a front face using a weld. Further as described above, the wall 8 in Soong is not a back face and is part of the body 3. Cheng teaches to secure the first member to the second member using an adhesive layer between the two members where the uniform adhesive layer has a uniform thickness. Accordingly, the rear member is attached to the front members by the adhesive layer in areas other than the periphery of the rear member.

#### **Chen 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection**

Chen does not show or discuss a weld securing a back face to a front face. As the Examiner noted, the base plate 30 is adhered to the front wall with resin fiber fabric. Accordingly, Chen does not show all of the elements of claim 1 or of claim 20.

**35 U.S.C. §103(a) unpatentable over Eggiman rejection**

Eggiman does not show or discuss a weld securing a back face to a front face. Eggiman teaches to insert a back plate into a groove 40 in the body 14. The back plate is not secured to a front face by a weld.

**Dependent claims 2-19 and 21-38**

Regarding claims 2-19 and 21-38, these claims depend from either claim 1 or claim 20 which applicants submit are allowable. Accordingly, claims 2-19 and 21-37 are at least allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

**REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE**

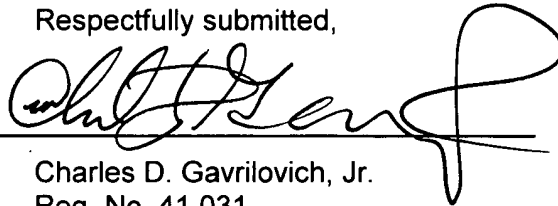
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unsolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Date:

June 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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